

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-26 are pending and presented for consideration. Claims 2 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 15 and 17-20 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 15 and 17-20 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the application, as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 15 and 18-20 have been deemed allowable over the art of record, if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without prejudice to pursuing a continuing application directed to the subject matter of such underlying claims, Applicants have amended (i) independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of dependent claim 2; (ii) claims 3, 9, 15 and 18-20 to incorporate the features of their respective base claims; (iii) independent claim 10 to incorporate the features of dependent claim 11; and (iv) independent claim 17 to incorporate features deemed allowable in claims 2 and 11, namely that the inner surface of the candle holder has a hammered texture.

Rejected Claims

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 12-14, 16, 17 and 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,554,448 to Carpenter et al. ("Carpenter") alone and further in view of Exhibit 13 as presented by Applicants. Applicants submit that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach many features of the present invention, as previously recited in these claims. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nevertheless, as discussed above, to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have rewritten claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 15 and 17-20 (i.e., all of the pending independent claims) to recite subject matter already deemed allowable.

Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 4-8, 12-14, 16 and 21-26 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

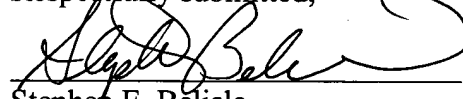
Conclusion

All pending claims being in allowable form, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicants also request that the Examiner contact their undersigned representative should any matters be deemed outstanding precluding allowance of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below for S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



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